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4. Information offices and study rooms of Marxism-Leninism must increase their assistance to teachers in the Year of Party Education. The greatest care must be devoted to model conversations and lectures for teachers, and in case of need teachers must be assisted individually or in groups in their preparation for teaching.

The Party press must also improve its assistance to teachers.

ELIMINATION OF DEFECTS IN THE YEAR OF PARTY EDUCATION IN OSTRAVA KRAJ

Jaroslav Kozel, Secretary
Culture-Propaganda Section
Kraj Committee of Communist Party
Ostrava

First Results of the Year of Party Education

Immediately after the beginning of the Year of Party Education, pupils from both classes of the kraj school were sent to Slezska Ostrava and Opava okreses to observe the first November meeting directly in the basic organizations. The comments of the okres culture-propaganda secretaries and of the students of the kraj school indicated the great success of the inauguration of the Year of Party Education, but they also showed that attention must be paid to the instruction and assistance of teachers by means of the okres committees and the committees of basic organizations.

In spite of the worthy efforts of a great majority of teachers, the introductory lecture in many instances was not an introduction to independent study. The visit also showed that the scope of the Year of Party Education was not sufficiently understood in all organizations. Even greater difficulties were encountered with the conversation at the second meeting, because of the teachers' inexperience. In some instances, the teacher did all the talking; in others, there was no discussion. Certain teachers in groups asked abrupt questions; there were instances where the teacher wrote questions on slips of paper, which he had his students draw at the second meeting. On the whole, however, the form of the conversation in groups and seminars was favorably received and fully proved itself.

Attention to Teachers

Attention to teachers is one of the primary tasks of the okres Party committee. At the end of each month, the okres committee holds regular conferences at which a sample introductory lecture and methodological and organizational hints are presented. Ideological problems are clarified, and methodological and organizational suggestions are exchanged.

The December conferences for the most part were insufficiently supported; only 60 percent of the teachers participated in them. For this reason, 20 supplementary conferences were arranged, in addition to individual instruction of teachers by information offices and study rooms.

The okres committees did not make sufficient preparations for the conferences, and failed to check the participation in them. The okres committee must know exactly who has participated in the conferences, so that it can deal with those organizations whose teachers have not participated. In some okreses (Frenstat, Bilovec) the attendance lists at the conferences were inadequate, so that it was not possible to ascertain which teachers were absent. The reason for this is that many okres committees do not have complete card files of teachers.

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Slezska Ostrava and Karvinna okreses did not arrange the type of conference desired. Instead of the number of teachers specified by the kraj committee (50), conferences were arranged for 100-200 teachers. This did not permit a thorough exchange of opinions by teachers. In many places, there was no one to preside over the conference.

In some places insufficient attention was devoted to the premises on which the conferences were held. Some places were unheated, and decorations were often inadequate.

Content of Conferences

Considerable defects were evident in the conferences. Although the kraj information office and study room prepared instructions for compiling the introductory lecture, the workers in okres information offices did not prepare a suitable model introductory lecture for teachers. In some places the introductory lecture lasted from 60 to 90 minutes. Elsewhere (in Privoz, for example), a system of more than 60 questions was used.

In a majority of okreses, the workers of okres information offices and study rooms are not properly informed, and in some cases they have not been selected with sufficient care. Not only ideological maturity but also administrative ability must be taken into consideration.

Nevertheless, many conferences were well prepared and conducted. They were most successful when the teacher enriched his interpretation with a discussion of well-known events.

Questions Discussed Most

In December the most discussed question was the possibility of transition to socialism after World War I, and the role of social democracy in this connection. There was lively discussion in the groups concerning the role of T. G. Masaryk in the struggle for national liberation during World War I and in the period of the First Republic. Weaknesses appeared among teachers in discussion of this question. In some groups the teacher was hard pressed by the incorrect opinions of comrades (primarily from the ranks of intellectuals) who underestimated the role of the Soviet October Revolution, and who tried to keep alive various legends about the national liberation and the period of the First Republic. The February membership meetings, which have the subject "Masaryk and the Communists" as part of their program, will surely help these comrades to see the matter in its proper light.

Incorrect opinions were also manifested in the evaluation of the Munich events. The question of whether or not we could have defended ourselves was widely discussed. Some defeatist opinions of the impossibility of defense were expressed, though rarely; these are vestiges of the false opinions of the bourgeoisie, who tried to cover their treachery with this lie.

The subject matter for January has also raised many questions, which have been discussed briskly and often incorrectly, on the character of World War II and the role of the western capitalist powers.

Confusion and incorrect opinions appeared in regard to the question of the Soviet-German nonaggression pact, the question of the procedure of the USSR after the invasion of Poland by Germany, and in the evaluation of the Finno-Soviet war. The role of Dr Benes in the second resistance and in February 1948 was also discussed.

The kraj information office and study room clarified obscure questions in the kraj every day.

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The conversations and discussions demonstrated that teachers from the ranks of the workers prepare themselves for meetings more carefully than others, who in some cases overestimate their own knowledge.

The discussions showed that greater attention must be paid to teachers. It also appeared that some of the comrades are not reading the brochure independently; this is particularly true of the rural areas.

Information Offices and Study Rooms in Ostrava Kraji

The kraj information office and study room did not organize any visits of teachers in November, and did not conduct any supplementary lectures. They arranged introductory lectures for the okres leaders of information offices and study rooms and their colleagues; they also investigated the progress of the Year of Party Education. Conferences with okres culture-propaganda secretaries and leaders of information offices and study rooms have been held regularly twice a month: once at the beginning of the month (evaluation of the progress of the okres conferences and the Year of Party Education as a whole), and again at the beginning of the second half of the month (introductory lecture, methodological and organizational instructions).

November and December were devoted primarily to organizational matters of the Year of Party Education. Less attention was paid to ideological work and to ideological aid to teachers.

Supplementary lectures were arranged in January as an aid to teachers; these dealt with the national and democratic character of our May revolution, the February events of 1948, and the two lines of resistance in World War II. Supplementary lectures will henceforth be held regularly.

Greater attention is being paid to the instruction of workers of the okres information offices and study rooms.

The increasing activity of the kraj information office and study room is indicated by the following figures: 260 consultations were held in November, 253 in December, and 420 in January (as of 25 January).

It is reported from the "Tatry" Factory in Butovice that 80 percent of the employees are participating in the Year of Party Education; a similar percentage is true of the Vitkovice Ironworks, and rural organizations are showing an increasing tendency toward participation.

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